

# KNIGHTLINE

Olney Central College



April 2021

## Upcoming Events

### April

**21** West Richland Center  
Open House, 6-8 p.m.

**23** Last Day to Withdraw  
from Spring Semester  
Classes

**28** Spring Fling, 8:30-10:30  
a.m.

**30** Music Department  
Spring Vocal Concert, 7 p.m.  
OCC Theater

### May

**7** Last Day of Spring  
Semester Classes

**10-13** Final Exams

## OCC Bookstore Important Dates

### Spring 2021

Summer and Intersession  
books go on sale May 10.

Spring Book Buyback will  
be from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. May  
10-13.

### Summer 2021

Last day for Intersession  
refunds is May 18.

Last day for Summer  
refunds is June 11.

Summer Book Buyback  
will be from 7:30 a.m.-4  
p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. July  
29-30.

Fall books go on sale July  
29.

### Fall 2021

Last day for fall refunds is  
Aug. 30.

Fall Book Buyback to be  
announced.

The Bookstore will be  
closed Dec. 20-Jan. 2 and  
reopen Jan. 3.

## Open House to showcase programs at West Richland Center

The West Richland Center in Noble will host an Open House from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, showcasing the Olney Central College programs located at the site.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about the many programs and services offered to the community at the facility, located at 320 E. North Ave. Faculty and advisors will be available to answer questions and provide information about the programs.

The WRC is home to the Title III Programs, which include Unmanned Aerial Technology, Information Systems Technology and the Welding and Fabrication Associate Degree. During the open house, visitors can tour the newly remodeled classrooms and labs.

Each program also is hosting special activities that evening. Guests can fly one of the many drones students will utilize when the UAT associate's degree begins this fall and Information Systems Technology is offering in-house Minecraft gaming.

OCC's Welding Program is hosting the First Annual Brandon Blackford Memorial Welding Competition in conjunction with the event. Top high school welders from throughout the area will spotlight their skills with the opportunity to win scholarships and prizes.

Visitors can also check out OCC's Cosmetology, Massage Therapy and Nail Technology classrooms and labs. The programs offer clinicals at the WRC, which are open to the public. Nail Technology will have student-led demonstrations and Massage Therapy will provide free chair massage.

"We are excited to be able to showcase several of our Career Technical Education Programs," said Advisor Jodi Schneider. "I encourage everyone to come and see the West Richland Center facility and view for themselves the new life that IECC has given to the building. The classrooms have been updated for our programs and the building is thriving again."

The WRC also hosts OCC Community Education classes including woodworking, which meets on Wednesday evenings. Instructor Kyle Kuenstler encourages anyone who is interested in taking the course to come by and observe the class.

For more information about the open house or the programs offered at the WRC, call 618-395-7777.

*The Title III program is supported in part by a five-year grant awarded to Olney Central College from the U.S. Department of Education effective October 1, 2018. The estimated total cost for all project activities is \$2,506,775 financed by the grant award of \$2,249,968 (90%) and \$256,807 (10%) by Olney Central College.*



# OPEN HOUSE

## WEST RICHLAND CENTER

320 E. North Avenue, Noble, IL



6:00-8:00 PM | APRIL 21

OLNEY CENTRAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS



# Stephanie Blake receives \$1,000 PTK Scholarship

Olney Central College student Stephanie Blake is the recipient of a \$1,000 Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship from Eastern Illinois University.

“I was very surprised,” Blake said of her selection. “It is a very competitive scholarship and I was very excited to receive it.”

The scholarship is awarded to students transferring from a community college with an associate’s degree and a GPA of 3.75 or higher. Applicants also must demonstrate leadership skills and submit two letters of recommendation.

While attending OCC, Blake served as both PTK President and Student Senate Vice President. PTK Advisor Amie Mayhall along with Instructor John Kendall recommended Blake for the award.

“Stephanie has been a joy to work with as our President of Alpha Theta Eta chapter of PTK,” Mayhall said. “She works hard daily, serving our OCC students and community. I am proud of the accomplishments she has made in our organization and for her future.”

Blake, who will graduate in May, plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in business at EIU and possibly continue her education with a master’s degree.

Along with her transfer degree, Blake also earned QuickBooks and Bookkeeping certificates at OCC, all while working full-time at Marathon Tire in Olney.

Blake chose to return to school following her sister’s graduation in 2019.

“I originally went to school for law enforcement, but wasn’t working in that field,” she said. “I wanted to do something that went along with the work skills I’m using now.”

Blake said OCC made it easy to complete all of her courses online.

“I am a full-time employee and mom so I needed it to be flexible,” she said. “The online courses were easy to navigate and had relevant content. I was able to work at my own pace and to work ahead. That was especially helpful with the pandemic when I was teaching my daughter and helping her. I wouldn’t be able to do what I’m doing if I had to be in class.”

Participating in PTK and Student Senate have been a rewarding experience for Blake.

“I really enjoyed being able to still help the community during the pandemic,” she said. “We took on extra community service projects and modified those to meet the needs. I would encourage others to jump out of their comfort zone and join a club or apply for scholarships it is doable and can help you.”



OCC student Stephanie Blake (left) received a \$1,000 Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship from Eastern Illinois University. Blake currently serves as OCC’s PTK President. She is pictured with PTK Advisor Amie Mayhall.

# Music Department Spring Vocal Concert April 30

OCC Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman and his students will present their 2021 Spring Concert at 7 p.m. April 30 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

“I’m looking forward to the concert and I know the students are too,” said Pittman. “It’s a way for the students to show what they have been working on.”

Pittman’s students last performed in December 2019, just prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I’ve noticed ever since I gave them a concert date, they have been working harder,” he said. “They are sounding really good on our *Celebrate* mashup from Rare Earth and Three Dog Night and I’m ready to show it off. It will be nice to perform again and to experience music with a live audience.”



While the audience will be limited to just 100 invited guests due to state COVID-19 guidelines, Pittman is planning to livestream the event on the OCC YouTube Channel so it is available to the community.

The concert will feature a mix of familiar pop songs and musical theater numbers spanning from the 1940s to the 2000s. Selections include *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*, The Beatles’ *When I’m Sixty-Four* and the late Leonard Cohen’s *Hallelujah*. Broadway favorites are *Seasons of Love* and *Will I* from *Rent*, *Agony and Agony Reprise* from *Into the Woods*, *A Whole New World* from *Aladdin* and *I know It’s Today* from *Shrek: The Musical*.

“It’s just some really fun music that everyone will enjoy,” Pittman added. “While these songs are familiar to many of us, the students are just discovering them.”

# Dunn completes term as Student Trustee

Olney Central College student Sutton Dunn, of Olney, recently completed his one-year term as the student representative to the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Board of Trustees.

“I really enjoyed the experience,” Dunn said. “I felt like the board members welcomed me with opened arms. Everyone on the board has been really nice. They asked a lot of questions about me and my major. I know the relationships I have made will continue far beyond my term.”

Dunn had the unique experience of serving during the COVID-19 pandemic and to see its impact on the IECC District, which included holding some monthly board meetings via Zoom.

“With COVID, it was definitely different,” Dunn said. “It meant I missed out on one of the best parts of serving as the student trustee, which is riding to the meetings with the college president. I did enjoy talking with President Rodney Raney and getting to know him.”

Dunn said serving on the board gave him insights into the business operations of the district.

“I knew we would talk about classrooms and programs, but I wasn’t aware what goes into the college from a business aspect,” he said. “It was interesting to see financially how the district works. I also wasn’t aware of the impact the colleges have on the communities and how closely they work together.”

Dunn, who will graduate in May, plans to transfer to the University of Illinois where he will study Kinesiology as he prepares for a graduate program in physical therapy.

Dunn enjoyed his time at OCC and encourages others to begin their education at the college.

“I think what I like most about OCC is the one-on-one instruction you get,” he said. “The classes are small and you feel comfortable asking your instructor questions.”

He added, “Being a student trustee was great. It was cool to learn about the colleges and it is an experience not many have had. Overall I really enjoyed it.”



**Chairman Andrew Fischer recognizes OCC student Sutton Dunn during the IECC Board of Trustees' meeting last month. Dunn has served as the Student Trustee since April 2019.**

## Registration underway for Youth Basketball Clinics

Youth in Grades K-8 can now register for the Blue Knight Basketball Spring Clinics at Olney Central College.

Camps will be held April 18, April 25, May 2 and May 9. Grades K-4 will meet from 1 to 2:30 p.m. while Grades 5-8 will meet from 2:45 to 4:15 p.m. in the OCC Gym. The cost is \$15 per clinic.

The Blue Knight Basketball Clinics provide a fun, friendly and competitive learning environment for players of all skill levels. Each clinic focuses on fundamental skill instruction and competitions. Participants will work with the Blue Knight players and coaches.

For more information, contact Camp Director Casey Wyllie at 815-822-4073, or email [wylliec@iecc.edu](mailto:wylliec@iecc.edu). Registration forms are available online at [www.iecc.edu/occ](http://www.iecc.edu/occ).



## Sports Schedule

### Baseball

**April 13** — OCC at Shawnee, noon & 2:30 p.m.

**April 15** — OCC at Southwestern Illinois, noon & 3 p.m.

**April 17** — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois, noon & 3 p.m. at home

**April 20** — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, noon & 2:30 p.m. at home

**April 22** — OCC vs. Frontier, noon & 3 p.m. at home

**April 24** — OCC at Frontier, noon & 3 p.m.

**April 27** — OCC at Wabash Valley, noon & 2:30 p.m.

**April 29** — OCC at Kaskaskia, noon & 3 p.m.

**May 1** — OCC vs. Kaskaskia, noon & 3 p.m. at home

**May 3** — OCC vs. Rend Lake, noon & 3 p.m. at home

**May 5** — OCC vs. Lake Land, noon & 3 p.m. at home

**May 7** — OCC at Lake Land, noon & 3 p.m.

### Softball

**April 13** — OCC vs. Wabash Valley, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

**March 15** — OCC vs. Kaskaskia, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

**April 17** — OCC vs. Frontier, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

**April 18** — OCC at Southwestern Illinois, 1 & 3 p.m.

**April 20** — OCC at Kaskaskia, 2 & 4 p.m.

**April 24** — OCC at Lincoln Trail, noon & 2 p.m.

**April 26** — OCC vs. Southwestern Illinois, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

**April 27** — OCC at Rend Lake, 2 & 4 p.m.

**April 29** — OCC vs. John A. Logan, 2 & 4 p.m. at home

**May 1** — OCC at Shawnee, noon & 2 p.m.

**May 4** — OCC vs. Southeastern Illinois, 2 & 4 p.m. at home



## Carla Burgener retiring

Carla Burgener was honored during a reception on March 26. She is retiring after serving as the Administrative Assistant to the Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health for nearly 25 years.

Her affiliation with the Nursing Program began as a work study student for the department while attending OCC.

She joined the program as a part-time employee in August 1996 after completing her associate's degree that same year. Her job was made a full-time position in November 1996.



## Welding students fabricate wheelchair ramp

Students in the Olney Central College Welding Program used their skills to fabricate a wheelchair ramp for math instructor James Thilker.

"He asked if we could make a wheelchair ramp and we wanted to help him out," said Welding Instructor Curtis Marshall. "He is a nice guy and a good teacher."

The work enabled students to improve not only their welding abilities, but their math skills too, as the project was incorporated into their math lessons. Students used geometry to determine the hypotenuse and angles needed for the ramp.

Students also followed ADA specifications and OSHA guidelines for building the 5- by 5-foot metal platform.

Marshall assisted the students with the ramp's installation late last month.

"It turned out really nice," Marshall said. "It was a good project for the students as they had to calculate all of the angles and do all of the math. Doing a project to help someone out is very rewarding."

Marshall said one of his students plans to return to Thilker's home and create a concrete pad in front of the ramp.





## SNA Community Service Project

The OCC Student Nurses Association made Easter baskets for Olney Head Start students and distributed them as a service project. Pictured are nursing students Tonya Moseley, left, and Hannah Lenear.

## OCC Welding Competition

Top high school welders will compete for scholarships and prizes during the First Annual Brandon Blackford Memorial Welding Competition on April 21.

The event, sponsored by the OCC Welding Program, gets underway at 5:30 p.m. in the new welding lab at the West Richland Center in Noble.

“This is a way to acknowledge students’ skills and recognize outstanding students and professionalism,” said Welding Instructor Curtis Marshall. “We want to encourage students to pursue careers in welding and to build self confidence and pride in their craftsmanship.”

The event is named and scholarship funds given in honor of OCC graduate Brandon Blackford.



## Easter Egg Hunt winner

Keatan Frohning, of Newton, was the winner of the OCC Easter Egg Hunt. He received a Ginger Ale’s gift card and OCC swag.

## OCC Spring Fling April 28

OCC’s annual Spring Fling will be held from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 28.

Activities will include a grab and go breakfast and Minute to Win It games.

Come early and play all games to be eligible to win prizes including gift cards, OCC apparel and memorabilia and more.

Limited prizes are available and will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

## Summer and Fall registration underway

Registration for summer and fall classes is ongoing.

Summer classes start June 7 and fall classes begin Aug. 17.

Schedules are available online at [www.iecc.edu/schedules](http://www.iecc.edu/schedules).

Advisement appointments are available. Stop by Student Services or call 618-395-7777.

## IST Club to Host Gaming Day May 1

The Information Systems Technology Club will host a Gaming Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 1 at the West Richland Center in Noble.

Check OCC social media for more details.

## Lost and Found

If you have lost an item, please check with Student Services.

## Lock Vehicles

Students utilizing the OCC parking lots are advised to keep their vehicles locked when unattended.